Alliance Report

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SUPREME COURT HEARS SIGNS CASE

The Supreme Court of Canada began its deliberations on the issue of the language of commercial signs. Three cases were presented in Ottawa the week of November 16 - 20 that focus attention on the government's power to regulate commercial speech, and the extent of freedom of expression guarantees in the Federal and Provincial charters of rights.

Of special interest to Alliance Quebec is the case of five merchants who posted bilingual signs. McKenna Florists, Brown's Shoes, Valerie Ford, the National Cheese Company, and the Masson Tailor and Drycleaner were all charged with posting signs in both English and French.

Lawyers Allan Hilton and Harvey Yarosky who represented the five merchants, made six main points in their presentations to the Court. They were:

i) The enactment of the Canadian Charter in 1982 altered the relationship between the individual and the state. The notwithstanding clause should only be used in exceptional circumstances, and generally the Charter should "protect individual citizens against certain decisions that the majority might impose in violation of their rights";

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- Freedom of expression includes language of expression. The factum notes "communicating information and messages to others in one's own language and, in a language understood by those for whom the information or messages are intended, is a natural and basic element of expression;
- iii) Alternatively, the protection of free speech includes commercial speech. "Section 3 of the Quebec Charter and section 2(b) of the Canadian Charter guarantee freedom of expression as such and make no distinction between political and other forms of expression, whether literary, artistic, commercial or other." As well, "ideas and information are often communicated for economic reasons. This nonetheless constitutes expression and merits protection under both Charters";
 - iv) The prohibition of languages other than French contravenes Section 10 of the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedoms which prohibits discrimination. By denying the use of English or another language, Bill 101 "has the effect of impairing the right to full and equal recognition of human rights and freedoms without distinction, exclusion or preference based on language constitutes discrimination";
 - v) The prohibition of languages other than French on signs cannot be considered a "reasonable limit" to freedom of expression;
 - vi) The merchants involved recognized the importance of the protection of the French language when they posted a <u>bilingual</u> sign. At issue is not the mandatory use of French. What is at stake is the fact that "the suppression of the optional, concurrent use of another language, however, has not been shown to be necessary to the protection of the French language in Quebec."

The Alliance has offered full legal support for merchants accused of posting bilingual signs. We have financed this case because it fully reflects the Alliance's policy on signs. The mandatory use of French plus the optional use of other languages is the only reasonable compromise on this issue. It allows for the protection of the French language while respecting the rights of all citizens of Quebec.

The same week, the Court heard the cases of Allan Singer and the Irwin Toy Company. Mr. Singer argues that he should have the right to post unilingual English signs. The Irwin Toy case addresses the question of limiting advertising aimed at children. Do protections for freedom of expression include commercial speech? How far does this protection extend?

Given the complexity of each case, it is unlikely that the Court will render a decision until the fall of 1988 at the earliest.



The following is a press release issued December 2 following the Alliance's appearance before the Senate Committee studying the Constitutional Accord:

MEECH LAKE: ALLIANCE QUEBEC RETURNS TO OTTAWA

Alliance Quebec President Royal Orr returned to Ottawa today to demand that the Meech Lake Accord be amended. In his appearance before the Senate Committee looking into the Constitutional Accord signed last June by the eleven First Ministers, Mr. Orr reiterated his organization's "grave concerns" over the effect of the Accord on fundamental rights and freedoms.

In the Alliance's presentation, Mr. Orr began by criticizing the process used to negotiate the constitutional package. The Accord has been adopted with "unseemly and unacceptable haste", which undermines the ability of Canadians to suggest changes in the Accord.

Furthermore, Mr. Orr responded to Senator Lowell Murray's contention that the deal is a "seamless web" that cannot be changed without having the agreement fall apart. "Alliance Quebec does not seek to jeopardize the Accord, only to improve it. Perhaps no community feels the impact of Quebec's isolation within Confederation more than the English-speaking community of Quebec, and certainly no Canadians feel more strongly about the importance of obtaining Quebec's adherence to the Constitution than English-speaking Quebeckers. But neither will we be intimidated by those who say the agreement will unravel if amendments are made to it, nor will we be mollified by the suggestion that improvements could be made in future years...We firmly believe this Accord must be improved and we will continue to advocate changes to it."

Mr. Orr focused his attention on Section 16 of the Accord, which he called the "critical flaw" of the agreement. This clause provides that nothing in the section recognizing Canada's duality and Quebec's distinctiveness shall affect the rights of the aboriginal peoples or the multicultural heritage of Canadians.

Alliance Quebec has repeatedly called on the eleven First Ministers to give English-speaking Quebeckers and all Canadians "a clear and explicit assurance that our rights cannot be adversely affected by the Accord." Mr. Orr noted that the Joint Senate-House of Commons Committee Report failed to respond to the concerns raised by the Alliance and many other groups who were disturbed by the potential effect of Section 16. After studying the Report, Mr. Orr concluded that the government "cannot give us that assurance."

The Alliance maintained its belief that "the French language, and all that is distinct about Quebec can be protected without negating individual rights." It again called for an amendment to have Section 16 read: "Nothing herein shall derogate from any rights or freedoms accorded by or under the Constitution of Canada."

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Mr. Orr reiterated the Alliance's position that Section 33 of the Constitution - the "notwithstanding clause" - be repealed. The adoption of the Charter in 1982 fundamentally altered the relationship between the government and the individual. Canadians have come to count on the full protection of the Charter for their rights and freedoms. Mr. Orr hoped that the Senate would "recommend the removal of the notwithstanding clause."

The Alliance also made two suggestions for amending the interpretive clause of the Accord. This clause, in its present form, acknowledges Canada's linguistic duality and recognizes Quebec as a distinct society. All governments are charged with preserving linguistic duality; the government of Quebec has the role of preserving and promoting Quebec's distinctiveness.

The Alliance's proposals included the addition of a recognition of Canada's multiculturalism and aboriginal peoples as "fundamental characteristics" of Canada. Without this inclusion, "the interpretive clause fails to adequately reflect the diversity of Canadian society."

The second recommendation was that all governments should be required to preserve and promote Canada's linguistic duality. In concrete terms, this would commit all eleven governments "to an active role in promoting official language minority communities wherever they exist in Canada."

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ALLIANCE QUEBEC SPEAKS OUT ON DEATH OF ANTHONY GRIFFIN

On November 11, 1987, Anthony Griffin, a 19 year-old black youth, was arrested and brought by police officers to Station 15. He was unarmed and had not been handcuffed. In the police station parking lot, Griffin apparently made an attempt at running away but stopped and turned towards the police officers when he was asked to halt. He was, nonetheless, shot and killed by Allan Gosset, one of the two arresting officers. Gosset's action was in complete contravention of strict guidelines which allow for use of firearms by the police only in circumstances where their own life or that of a citizen is threatened. The tragic death of Anthony Griffin has shocked and disturbed not only the members of visible minorities but all communities in Quebec. It has dramatized the pressing need to address long-standing demands for reforms in the MUC police force and the public services more generally. Alliance Quebec therefore joins numerous other community organizations in a demand for a full and independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Anthony Griffin. The following is the text of a telegram which was sent by Alliance Quebec to the Minister of Justice. Herbert Marx.



The Honourable Herbert Marx, M.N.A. 1200, route de l'Église 9e étage Sainte-Foy (Québec) GIV 4M1

Dear Mr. Marx,

The tragic death of Anthony Griffin has shocked individuals from all communities in Quebec. The circumstances of his death must be thoroughly and impartially investigated to ascertain the facts surrounding the shooting of an unarmed individual by a policeman. On behalf of Alliance Quebec, I call upon you to order a full, public inquiry into this disturbing incident.

Mr. Griffin's death raises a number of crucial questions about the nature of relations between the police and the community. Alliance Quebec has always believed that the public service should reflect the full ethnic and cultural diversity of the population it serves. The efforts of the MUC police force, however, to increase minority representation in its ranks have failed dismally.

There have been long-standing reservations about the present system of responding to citizens' complaints about police activities. We join with other groups in calling upon the provincial government to establish a Civilian Complaints Review Commission in the Montreal Urban Community without further delay. Only an independent review board can effectively monitor police operations and ensure that officers are fully accountable to the community which they serve.

I therefore again urge you to initiate immediately a full and independent judicial inquiry into the death of Anthony Griffin.

Sincerely yours,

Royal Orr President Alliance Quebec

c.c. The Honourable Robert Bourassa, Premier of Quebec
Claude Dauphin, Parliamentary Secretary to The Honourable
Herbert Marx



HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATE

We are quickly approaching the first anniversary of the passage of Bill 142 by the National Assembly. At this time, it is difficult to know just how big a party we should be having on December 19, 1987.

While the legislation itself is an English services watershed, its implementation is proceeding at varying rates throughout the province. The chart on page seven can give you a quick summary of the implementation process using eight basic indicators down the left hand margin and eleven health regions along the top of the page.

Most remarkable are those regions that have made great strides, namely Laurentides-Lanaudière and Quebec; and those where progress has been slow, the Saguenay, greater Montreal (!) and the Montérégie (south and east of Montreal) and Abitibi-Témiscamingue. Given the pace of the work thus far, we expect that the process will have to be carried on into 1988 and beyond in some regions which are grappling with a number of complex issues.

In addition, the Provincial Advisory Committee on Bill 142, composed of Christos Sirros, Jim Carter, Sheila Goldbloom, Gail Hawley-McDonald, Alex Paterson, Jim Ross and Richard Walling, has only recently held its first meeting. It will be monitoring the process through to its completion.

CHANGES TO ELIGIBILITY RULES UNDER BILL 58

In June, 1986, the Quebec Government passed Bill 58, which modified the conditions for access to English language instruction. The change which received the most media attention involved the 1,500 so-called "illegals" who were in the English school system. These children were accorded official status as a result of Bill 58.

To prevent school board officials from permitting another "illegals" situation to arise, the National Assembly adopted stiff penalties for anyone who allows a child into an English school without a certificate of eligibility. This requirement has caused difficulties for families because of the time delays involved in obtaining certificates. As a rough estimate, each application takes 3 - 4 weeks to go through the Bureau d'admissibilité à l'enseignement en anglais (BAEA). Should the application be rejected, it takes 6 - 8 weeks to get it before the Commission d'appel sur la langue d'enseignement (the appeal board). No case can go before the Commission until the BAEA makes a decision.

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TABLE SHOWING THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF BILL 142 THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE

HEALTH REGION

STAGE (as of November 18, 1987)	01 Gaspé	02 Sag	03 Québec	04 3 Riv	05 Estrie	06A Mt1	06B Laur-Lan	06C Montérég	07 Outa	08 Ab-Temis	09 Cote-Nord
1. Local English-speaking community (E.S.C.) is in contact with the CRSSS.	✓	•	1	✓	✓	•	/	1	/		•
2. Sub-committee of the CRSSS formed.	✓		1	✓	1	/	✓		✓		/
3. Sub-committee has representation from the E.S.C.	/		1	/	•	✓	✓.		•		, •
4. Sub-committee has met.	1		1	1	1		/	<i>"</i>			/
5. Sub-committee has established a timetable.			1		/		✓				
6. Sub-committee has established its mandate and "méthode de travail".			1	✓	/		•	* .		·	
7. Sub-committee has begun examining components of an eventual plan (by service area).			✓				/				·
8. Institutions have been surveyed on current level of English services.		i di			✓		✓				,

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The other change under Bill 58 was to grant wider powers to the Commission d'appel. The Commission can now recommend that the Minister of Education give exemptions to individuals on "humanitarian and family grounds." No definition is given of what constitutes "humanitarian and family grounds."

The most tangible effect of this change involves students who arrive in Quebec with only one or two years left to complete their secondary studies. If these students have studied outside Quebec in English, they are now allowed to finish off high school in English. This is an important change for students entering Secondary IV or V in Quebec.

Unfortunately, obtaining an exemption is a slow process. The family must apply to the BAEA first in order to receive a negative decision. Only then can the family apply to the Commission for an exemption from the Minister.

THE ALLIANCE RESEARCH & EDUCATION INSTITUTE

A Christmas gift idea...

In cooperation with Epilepsy Ontario, Alliance Quebec is selling copies of a national best-selling cookbook, "All-Occasion Cooking", with over 400 favorite recipes from Canadian celebrities such as Pierre Berton, Bobby Orr, Arthur Hailey and Karen Kain.

Cookbooks are \$9.00 each and profits go towards chapter and association activities. Give a unique Christmas gift and support the efforts of Alliance Quebec and Epilepsy Ontario at the same time. "All-Occasion Cooking" is a gift which captures the true spirit of Christmas. Hurry and order yours while supplies last! Please contact your chapter office or phone 845-8127 and we will make sure your chapter gets your copies to you.

...and a special thanks.

The Alliance Research and Education Institute would like to take this opportunity to thank all of its generous supporters. Your contributions have made many worthwhile projects possible.

For those of you who haven't yet made a contribution in 1987, please consider making a donation now. Remember, all cheques received before December 31, 1987 entitle you to a 1987 tax receipt. Please make your cheque payable to: The Alliance Research and Education Institute, 1411 Crescent Street, Suite 506, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 2B3. You can also phone in your contribution by calling 845-8127.



OFFICIAL LANGUAGES PROGRAMME RENEWAL

Every five years the Secretary of State evaluates and renews its commitment to the Official Language Minority Communities Programme. This is a programme from which the Alliance's Chapters, the Associations and numerous other community agencies receive support funding. The Alliance is currently involved in discussions with many of the representatives from the Secretary of State Department to review our concerns and perspectives.

We are particularly interested in ensuring that the Government representatives understand how much the English-speaking community of Quebec has changed over the last five years and how the issues that we are dealing with have evolved. As you may recall the English-speaking community of Quebec was late getting into this programme and therefore received substantially less funding than the many of the francophone groups outside of the province.

The Alliance is especially interested in encouraging the Secretary of State to inject new money into this programme so that our community needs can be met fully in the next five years. We have also noted that there must be a stronger national component in the programme to ensure that both the French and English-speaking minority communities can understand each other's perspectives.

Bill Young, the Off-Island Vice-President, Sharon McCully, President of CASA and a Board Member of the Alliance, and Russ Williams, Executive Director, are currently working on a document for presentation to the Secretary of State in the near future.

...IN BRIEF...

On Wednesday December 2, Alliance Quebec will be asking the Supreme Court of Canada for permission to intervene in the Saskatchewan reference case. At issue is the right of a French-speaking accused to use French before the courts of Saskatchewan, and if this right exists, the scope of such a right.

Judicial determination of the scope of such a right could well have important consequences for the interpretation of the constitutional rights of the English-speaking community of Quebec.

Alliance Quebec will be asking the court to reconsider the view it took in MacDonald v City of Montreal and Société des Acadiens cases that language rights are based on a political compromise rather than on principle.

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Saturday, December 5 will be a busy day for our Chapter and Regional Association Presidents. Three meetings will be held to review the process for funding renewal, and to provide a general update on the issues of the day (signs?) The schedule is: 10:00 a.m. - Association Presidents Meeting 11:00 a.m. - Off-Island Committee Meeting

12:00-2:30 p.m. - Presidents' Lunch

Friday, November 13 proved to be an auspicious night to launch the Alliance Quebec debating series. Over 120 people attended the first debate, which examined whether the English-speaking community should claim Dr. Wolfred Nelson as a hero. Dr. Nelson was a leader of the <u>Patriotes</u> during the 1837 Rebellion. Congratulations are in order for our four <u>debaters</u> - Graeme Decarie, Ronald Sutherland, Stephen Scott, and Robin Burns.

The third annual Alan Jones History Contest is underway. Schools across the province are encouraged to have their students do projects on "Heroes, Villains, and Characters" drawn from the English-speaking community of the past or present. Full contest rules are available from 1411 Crescent St., Suite 501, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 2B3. Completed entry forms, indicating a school's interest in participating, must be returned by March 15, 1988. Contest entries will be displayed at the Alliance Quebec Convention in May.

...COMING EVENTS...

December 2 (Wednesday) - The South Shore Chapter, in conjunction with Paragraphe Bookstore, is holding a Book Fair at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 165 Cleghorn, St. Lambert, from 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. All are welcome.

December 5 (Saturday) - The Young Virtuosi of Montreal, under the direction of Alexander Brott, are giving a special concert in recognition of the 39th Anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The concert, given under the auspices of the Canadian Human Rights Foundation, will be held at Mary Queen of the World Cathedral, Dorchester Boulevard West, Montreal, starting at 8:30 p.m. The concert will feature Vivaldi's Gloria. Admission is free.

December 5 (Saturday) - The Côte Nord - Sept Iles/Port Cartier Chapter will have Celebrity Cookbooks on hand for sale at the Anglican Church. For further information please contact Mary Fancy at 418-968-4614.

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December 6 (Sunday) - The St. Laurent Chapter is holding a Holiday Brunch at 1:00 p.m. at St. Andrew's Norwood United Church, 1600 de l'Église, St. Laurent. Please R.S.V.P. with Marilyn Segal at 747-0764.

December 8 (Tuesday) - The Laval/North Shore Chapter is having a Chapter Meeting at Elmwood School in Rosemere. All members are welcome. Please contact Bev Beauchamp at 681-5003 for further details.

December 11 (Friday) - The Southwest Chapter Christmas Party will take place at All Saints Church, 7325 Ouimet, Verdun, at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for members, \$1.00 for members' guests, and \$2.00 for the general public. Please contact Mrs. Prescott at 769-9144 for further information.

December 14 (Monday) - January 3 (Sunday) - A Geordie - Youtheatre Co-Production will be presented at the Saidye Bronfman Centre, "The Last Voyage of the Devil's Wheel", by Jim Betts, is the sequel to last year's production of the "Mystery of the Oak Island Treasure." The play is for children 10 years and up. Please call 739-7944 for more details.

December 15 (Tuesday) - The St. Maurice Valley Chapter will host a Christmas social at St. Patrick's Church Hall, 340 Whitehead, Trois Rivières, at 6:00 p.m. Punch and a buffet supper will be served. You are invited to join in carol singing - and social games. For further information contact Vera Young at 819-376-7676.

December 15 (Tuesday) - The Saguenay/Lac St. Jean Chapter will host a Christmas Social at the Alcan Club at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Nicki Garwood at 418-548-9865.

December 15 (Tuesday) - Don't forget the Alliance Quebec Christmas party at Winnie's, 1455 Crescent Street. The Festivities start at 5:30 p.m. - see you there!

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December 20 (Sunday) - The Abitibi East Chapter will host a Santa Claus Party at Percival school in Val d'Or for 200 youngsters in Kindergarten and grade one. For further information contact Bob Van Tassel at 819-824-6845.

January 11 (Monday) - The West Island Chapter is holding a meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Beaconsfield High School for local businessmen who have questions concerning the signs' law. Guest speaker will be Kathleen Weil, the Alliance's Chief of Staff. Please phone Cheryl Besner at 697-2105 for further information.

March 12 (Saturday) - Finally, please note that the next Community Development Seminar will be held March 12. Further information will be provided at a later date.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES PROGRAMME UPDATE

Regional Consultation: The process which began with a consultation on the quality of provincial government services in the Montreal region has shown some progress. The report on the Regional Consultation was submitted to the Minister of Communications, Mr. Richard French.

As a result, Mr. French organized a meeting of senior officials from the departments identified in the report as having problems serving the English-speaking community. At this meeting Mr. French explained his role and interest in the services provided to the non-Francophone citizens.

The officials then commented on the report, their services in English, and additional measures they intended to take to correct the problem. The tone of the meeting was generally positive and a number of constructive suggestions were made. A follow-up meeting will be held in six months.

From the beginning, the Alliance has been interested in extending the regional consultation process beyond the greater Montreal region. To this end a proposal has been submitted to Mr. French for a regional consultation on the quality of provincial government services to the Baie Comeau, Côte Nord and Gaspé regions.

Affirmative Action: The Alliance continues to advocate for measures which would correct the severe under-representation of the English-speaking



community in the provincial civil service. Less than one percent of the Quebec public service is drawn from our community. The Alliance has been meeting with government ministers to ensure that they are aware of our concerns and expectations. An AQ delegation, which included Royal Orr, Alan DeSousa, Russ Williams and Michael O'Keefe, recently met with the President of the Treasury Board, Paul Gobeil. Mr. Gobeil revealed that the government is seriously considering including a "volet anglophone" in the proposed affirmative action programme. This would represent a major achievement for our community.

EDUCATION UPDATE

1. Education Act Reform

Last spring, the Minister of Education, Claude Ryan, announced his intention to revise the Education Act. The legislation should be tabled this month. Alliance Quebec is one of the organizations concerned with English language education which has been briefed by ministry officials on proposed changes. Debate and public hearings on the legislation is planned for the spring.

There will be two pieces of legislation. One is a revised Education Act which will define the roles and responsibilities of different participants in the education system. The second piece of legislation will deal with school board elections, incorporating and revising measures that are included in the present Education Act. Both pieces of legislation assume a school structure based on the existing confessional boards. Early next year, the Minister proposes to put a series of questions to the Quebec Court of Appeals to clarify the powers of the Government to establish linguistic boards.

One significant change may permit parent representatives of linguistic minorities (English or French) to sit on school boards. A linguistic minority is defined as 200 pupils or 5% of the student population. It is proposed that these minority representatives have full voting rights on the board.

Other changes include a revamping of the school election rules. Advance polling, extension of the enumeration period, and the calling of by-elections to fill board vacancies are among the suggested amendments to the Act

The Provincial Education Committee will monitor the changes carefully, and the Alliance will continue to ensure that the interests of our community are represented in any reworking of the Education Act.

2. Community Consultation on Education

In August, Alliance Quebec met with Claude Ryan. A major topic for discussion was the need for restructuring the education system. Mr. Ryan

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indicated he would not pursue the Alliance position: that an amendment to the BNA Act must be negotiated to permit the establishment of linguistic boards. However, Alliance did impress upon the Minister that enrolment statistics recently compiled by Alliance dramatically demonstrate the erosion of a system of schools controlled and managed by the English-speaking community.

Just to summarize the most pertinent province-wide figures: between 1975 and 1986, the population of English language schools dropped more than 50%. The projections for 1986-1990 indicate a further 11% decline. To compare, in the 1975-1986 period, total school enrolments declined 24%; for the 1986-1990 period, enrolments in French language schools will turn around with a slight growth of 2%. In addition to enrolment declines, the fantastic growth of the French Protestant sector continues to alter the picture: from 1975 to 1986 the number of students in this sector in the province grew 1,000%. And the growth continues: in 1986, students in French language schools constituted 20% of the Protestant enrolments; by 1990, they will constitute 27%.

With these same statistics in hand, over the fall, provincial education staff met with the boards and/or education committees of a number of Alliance chapters. These meetings served a double purpose: to discuss in some detail the impact of the statistics on our education system province-wide as well as in the local chapter area; and, to generate initial debate about the education priorities of each local community.

3. School Board Elections

Within each community, the results of local school board elections are known. Immediately following the elections, we also heard and read some discussion about community participation: one-quarter of all voters came out in mainland areas; but once again, on-island participation rates were disappointing at only 13%. In the aftermath of November 15, the Minister also publicly indicated some measures proposed in the legislation concerning advance polls and financing of campaigns. What did not seem to be discussed, however, but about which we heard numerous discouraging stories again this year, were problems with the enumeration process: names left off; people incorrectly listed; lack of adequate information about making revisions.

Given that it has occurred this recently, we are attuned to the school election process. This can be important to our ability to assess the types of measures that will be included in the legislation. It is clear the Minister sees a need to improve this process. However, has he taken the right tack? Has he gone far enough? This is the time to collect thoughts on the recent elections and hold them in mind for discussions in the new year.



4. Small Schools Sub-Committee

A small schools sub-committee has been established by the provincial education committee. It is chaired by Vera Young from the St. Maurice Chapter. The committee has been created to examine the special needs of small schools in rural and urban settings.

The committee will examine Alliance policy on the "last school in the community," and assist the Ministry of Education in its plans to take new initiatives in this area. The MEQ has recently ordered a needs assessment of small schools, to be done by the Services Educatifs aux Anglophones. A conference was recently held at Tadoussac to study the small school situation.

The sub-committee has also agreed to collect information on the delivery of Health and Social Services in the schools. Members seeking further information about the committee are invited to contact the Education Programme.

On behalf of the

